Growing the Environmental Science Portal

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Presentation Overview

- Why Another Portal?
- Today's portals vs. websites
- Vision for the Science Portal
- Development Efforts
- Demonstration

What Is The Driver for The Portal?

- Need for better informed environmental decisions and improved science products, both of which depend on …
  - Collaboration
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Better use of available data
  - More widely available tools, models

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What is a Portal?

"…applications that enable (organizations) to unlock internally stored information, and provide users with a single gateway to the personalized information and knowledge to make informed business decisions."

Shilakes & Tyleman, Merrill Lynch, Inc.

What Does a Portal Do?

- Encourages a self-directed work environment.

- Allows users to leverage content and integrate data.

- Provides easy-to-use interface across applications.

- Provides smart, effective, secure access to internal and external systems.

Stimulating a Collaborative Environment

- The Portal would provide…
    - Shared work spaces
    - Document and data repositories
    - Real-time interactions
    - Desk-top visualization
    - Discussion forums
    - Audio/video conferencing
- Access to Science Subnet for large file transfers outside the firewall

Sharing Science Tools and Information

- Access to network of high-end scientific computing resources
  - EPA compute grid
  - Shared control of Instrumentation via web
  - Advanced models, tools and applications via web (i.e., GIS, visualization)

Advantages of the Environmental Science Portal

- Business or science on demand
  - Provides access to EPA's enterprise information through single access point.

- Customization
  - Organizes information for ease of use.

- Personalization
  - Tailors pages to users' preferences, job functions, characteristics, and use history.

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Advantages of the Environmental Science Portal *(cont.)*

- ## Content Management
  - Manages unstructured information assets such as metadata storage.
  - Allows full-text indexing, content management.

- ## Collaboration Tools
  - Provides shared workspaces, document repositories, real-time interaction, discussion forums.

- ## Ease of Development
  - Provides framework for rapid integration of independent applications.

Advantages of the Environmental Science Portal (cont.)

- Efficiency
  - Single point of entry
  - Single log-in for multiple systems
  - Identity management/access control
    - Researchers can access info through portal in the lab, at home, on travel.
    - Allows access for regions, states, tribes, and other trusted partners.

Portal Development Targets

- Demonstration Prototype at Science Forum, June 1-3, 2004
- Release first test version – September 2004
- Release first public version – May, 2005